

Patrice McDermott is the Executive Director of the coalition, OpenTheGovernment.org. She became the coalition's Director after more than 4 years as the Deputy Director of the Office of Government Relations at the American Library Association Washington Office. At ALA, she had lead responsibility for government information and privacy policy, and e-government policy issues. She joined ALA in December 2001, after having served for 8 years as the senior information policy analyst for OMB Watch.

Dr. McDermott is the author of [Who Needs to Know? The State of Public Access to Federal Government Information](#). On March 16, 2011, she received the James Madison Award from the American Library Association in recognition of her work to champion, protect, and promote public access to government information and the public's right to know. Patrice was inducted into the National Freedom of Information Act Hall of Fame in 2001. Dr. McDermott is a frequent speaker on public access and open government issues.

She previously served as the Assistant Director of the Office for Intellectual Freedom of the American Library Association, taught information politics at Clark Atlanta University, and worked at the National Archives and Records Administration.

Patrice was awarded her doctorate from the University of Arizona in political science and received an M.Ln. in library and information management from Emory University and an M.A. from Brown University. She is a graduate of Florida State University.